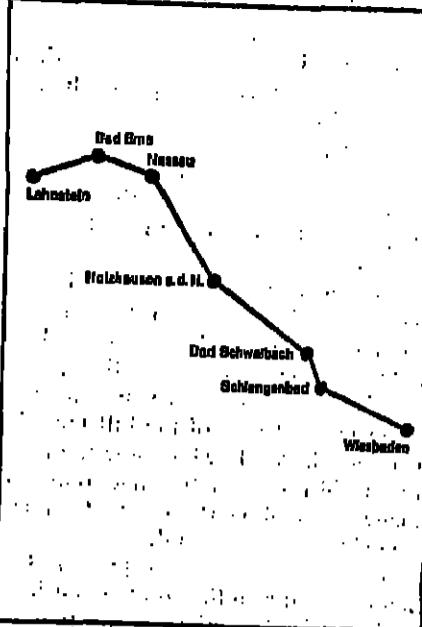
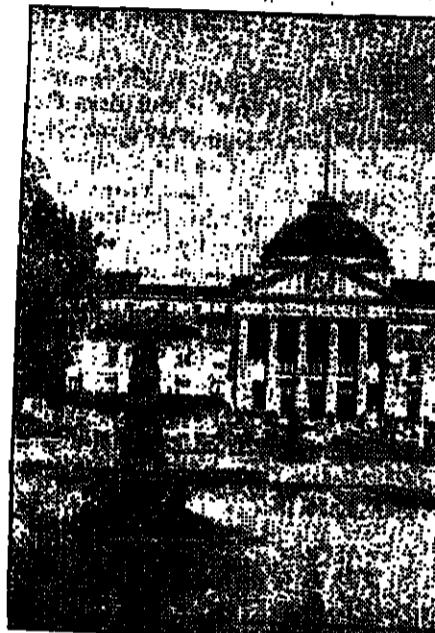


Berg, 3 July 1983
forty-second year - No. 1090 - By air

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Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow in July comes at an awkward time. Geneva talks on missiles and missileisation in Europe are in full swing. Relations between the superpowers cooled off. The chill has set in to the extent that Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko has dismissed any idea of a meeting between Presidents Andropov and Reagan as an immediate priority. Painstaking preparations were made for a summit meeting, Mr Gorbachev. So were atmospheric improvements that Washington was not prepared to at present.

Chancellor Kohl will make no bones about the negative aspects of relations between Bonn and Moscow during his visit to the Soviet capital. German diplomats in Moscow hint that Kohl and his Foreign Minister, Hans Genscher, will be telling the Soviet leaders what doesn't satisfy

the Chancellor will be stressing his interest in good relations with the Soviet Union even if missile moderation goes ahead.

Some sources suggest that Bonn would prefer the Chancellor's visit not

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Next edition of THE GERMAN TRIBUNE will appear on 17 July.

dominated by the missiles issue, though Geneva INF talks are sure to be major item on the agenda of the days of talks.

It is felt to be unfair for the Soviet Union to behave as though the stationing of new missiles were a matter of life and death, of war or peace. The Soviet Union, it is argued, has armed the Federal Republic of Germany with its own SS-4 missiles since

despite this threat relations between the two countries have been good. No one threat the Moscow treaties designed.

Chancellor Kohl is expected to reject the

absolute character of Soviet security policy, and he is expecting the Soviet Union to honour his firm stand with a willingness to compromise.

The Chancellor is likely to hold separate talks with Mr Andropov, Prime Minister Tikhonov and Defence Minister Ustinov.

In each case missile experts from both sides will be present, but it is hoped that the missiles issue will not predominate.

Bonn wants to make it clear to the Soviet Union that the security policy measures it feels are right ought not to be made subject to the future of bilateral ties.

Chancellor Kohl's government is keen to maintain good relations.

The negative aspects of bilateral ties include, as the Chancellor sees it, the decline in the number of ethnic Germans to the granted visas to leave the Soviet Union and start life afresh in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This "sad chapter" in bilateral ties, as one German diplomat puts it, will be given a forthright mention by Chancellor Kohl in view of the burden it imposes on ties between Bonn and Moscow.

His predecessors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt preferred not to over-emphasise the issue. They tried to solve the problem by means of quiet diplomacy.

Allegations of this kind were levelled at individual Christian Democrats within the CDU was in opposition in Bonn, but Herr Kohl had not been the subject of such attacks since taking over as Chancellor.



American Vice-President George Bush (left) with Bonn President Karl Carstens. Mr Bush was in the Federal Republic to take part in 300th anniversary celebrations to mark the first German settlers to arrive in America (Story this page).

(Photo: Sven Simon)

ments are ready for signing. No communiqué is to be issued at the end of the visit. Negotiating the terms would have been too difficult.

German diplomats and observers in Moscow have carefully noted reports in *Izvestia*, an article in *Moscow News* by a member of the central committee's staff and a report by *Tass* from Bonn.

The basic tenor of these reports and commentaries is gloomy. Chancellor Kohl is said to be associated with "revisionist circles."

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Peter Seiditz
(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 June 1983)

In the first six months of 1983 only 594 ethnic Germans have been issued with exit visas by the Soviet authorities. The figure last year was 1,196. Over 100,000 are felt to be still keen to migrate. Neither political nor economic agree-

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German-American friendship, which the tricentennial celebrations are intended to reaffirm, developed in the special circumstances of the post-war period.

Yet the Western alliance remains the cornerstone on which the Federal Republic's policies are based, and election results emphasise how few people would like to see Bonn pull out of Nato.

The fear of a nuclear arms race is much more widespread. Reaffirmation of German-American friendship, as in Krefeld, would be misunderstood if it were taken to mean automatic approval of arms policies of any kind.

Bonn may abide by its Nato commit-

ments.

Continued on page 21

A reflection of German public opinion

Vice-President Bush of America, President Carstens and Chancellor Kohl attended a special ceremony in Krefeld in honour of the 300th anniversary of the first German settlers in America.

Mr Bush was welcomed by 100,000 Krefeld people, 20,000 members of the peace movement demonstrated peacefully against the arms race and 1,000 demonstrators (at most) ran riot.

These figures are probably an accurate reflection of German opinion on ties with the United States and on armaments. The number of militant troublemakers is very small yet they hit the headlines.

This conveys a distorted picture of the situation in the Federal Republic and an inaccurate image of the peace movement, which thus tends to be seen as entirely violent, Communist-run and completely anti-American.

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Continued on page 21

Fireside chat

President Reagan (left) and the Governing Mayor of West Berlin, Richard von Weizsäcker, at the White House. The special problems of Berlin and the Geneva disarmament talks were among the topics during von Weizsäcker's four-day visit.

(Photo: R. D. Thompson)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Euro missiles:
would a
plebiscite help?

A Constitutional Court judge, Holmut Simon, has suggested that a referendum be held on the issue of whether missiles should be stationed in Germany. His suggestion was aimed at helping to relax domestic political tension.

What is the point of a referendum? Judge Simon's proposal is for a consultative referendum, which by definition would not be binding on the Bundestag.

If it were held, either the Bundestag or a sufficiently large number of people (the crucial factor in any legal arrangement) could insist on a referendum before any specific major political decision was taken.

But the result of the referendum would merely serve as a basis for further discussion and not be binding on bodies constitutionally entrusted with the task of reaching final decisions.

Yet the closer one scrutinises the idea of a consultative referendum to offset the lack of provisions for a plebiscite in Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, the more heavily the counter-arguments seem to weigh.

A merely consultative referendum would run the risk of making the gap in political legitimisation that was to be bridged even wider.

What, for instance, if the referendum were to go against stationing the new missiles in Germany but the government and the Bundestag were to give it the go-ahead, which they would still be entitled to do?

It would be an untenable choice. Either the will of the people would be disregarded or it would have to be admitted that the leeway allegedly to be retained by constitutional organs had become a sheer farce.

What issues would be liable to be dealt with in a referendum: whether foreign residents should be allowed to stay in Germany, for instance?

What if the people were to be asked two different questions simultaneously that had been demagogically reduced to a seemingly simple alternative?

This is not even to mention the fact that opinion polls can establish exactly what views the public hold on a given issue as it is.

Helmut Simon is a staunch supporter of constitutional freedom. Only someone who did not know him could possibly imagine he was unaware of all these problems.

He himself admits that his proposal is a makeshift solution, so those who dislike it will at least appreciate that even Judge Simon realises it is far from perfect.

Limits are everywhere in evidence; in security, policy, atomic energy, ecology, as a whole, scarce resources, genetic engineering and so on.

They cannot be overstepped without letting chaos loose. Trial and error as the path to progress are no longer appropriate. Even a single error could be the last.

So it seems reasonable to ask whether there might not be issues on which a majority cannot be in favour today and against tomorrow.

That is why some people, including another judge, feel the missiles debate

is not a political issue. It is, they argue, a matter of life and death.

Even though this argument elevates a partial aspect of security policy to the level of the absolute without due cause the idea fairly underlines the finite nature of political processes.

The problem is that this realisation of constitutional limits can lead to diametrically opposite conclusions.

While one may argue that the majority mechanism breaks down on certain issues it is also true that in the final analysis all political issues amount to a choice between yes and no, between majority and minority.

Even if Helmut Simon were right in saying that the death penalty is another issue on which a political vote is impossible he would have to admit that it was abolished by a political vote.

It follows that in situations in which majority decisions are extremely controversial the majority and minority are even more heavily committed to mediation and to reach an understanding.

There must be neither a high-handed use of the majority position nor an arbitrary decision to pull out of the constitutional set-up.

As for positive developments in arms control and disarmament, the SIPRI findings are short and anything but sweet: there have been none.

Even a rough and ready look at the facts ought to make advocates of security policy along mainly military lines think twice.

Between 1979 and 1982 arms expenditure increased by four per cent per annum, or roughly twice as fast as during the previous four years.

SIPRI estimates total arms spending in 1982 to have amounted to between \$700bn and \$750bn. The international arms trade is still booming, having achieved a growth rate of 80 per cent

in 1982.

In 1982 the United States carried out 17 nuclear tests, the largest series since 1970, while the Soviet Union's 31 nuclear tests were the largest number in any one year since 1963.

British and French arms programmes, if they go ahead according to plan, are likely to increase the number of Anglo-French missile warheads aimed at targets in the Soviet Union from 386 to roughly 2,000 over the next 15 years.

The head of SIPRI, Frank Blackbourn, urgently notes the problems the British

Continued from page 1

ments and agree if need be to the stationing of new US missiles in Germany, but it will do so solely because it realises it has to. The aim is still to end the arms race.

The German government must continue to stress the need for results at Geneva. Friendship with America need hardly suffer from constant reminders that this must be the target.

Ralf Lehmann
(Westdeutsche Zeitung, 20 June 1983)

Polish officials breathe easy

again as the Pope departs

Top-ranking officials of the Communist regime in Warsaw must have breathed a sigh of relief when the Pope reached the end of his visit to Poland and flew back to Rome.

They were the Papal "divisions" about which Stalin sarcastically inquired, and Polish Communists will have their work cut out countering the effect of the Pope's sermons.

Moscow has been tellingly tight-lipped about the entire business so far.

Yet the visit upgraded the Polish military regime, which was previously internationally isolated, and General Jaruzelski personally too.

Any dramatic development in this connection would have strengthened the hand of opponents of the Papal visit among doctrinaire Party officials and weakened that of General Jaruzelski and Communist reformers led by Vice-Premier Rakowski.

The visit gave millions of Poles an opportunity of demonstrating to the

world at large their religious convictions (political too, under an atheist regime).

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Yet the visit upgraded the Polish military regime, which was previously internationally isolated, and General Jaruzelski personally too.

His invitation to the Pope was a courageous and daring decision that could yet play a part in defusing Poland's domestic contradictions even though the dialogue might initially be limited to Party and Church.

This being so, an easing of Western sanctions could strengthen the position of Polish moderates.

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■ PEOPLE

Vogel's first term in charge: there's no one else in sight

Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of the SPD parliamentary party in the Bundestag since 8 March, has avoided making any serious mistakes during his first 100 days as Opposition leader.

"I expected to come up against big, very big problems...," Vogel admits. "In terms of those expectations, things have gone pretty well."

Although Vogel's appraisal of his own performance since his party's general election defeat sounds rather restrained, there is no trace of faint-heartedness.

Just one week before the Bundestag's summer recess, Vogel feels that he has done a good job and has "kept the outfit together". This is more than many pessimists had predicted.

The Social Democratic Party, which lost a great deal of support during the March elections, is still in the process of waking up to new political realities. After 16 years in government, the new role of Opposition party takes some getting used to.

Even leading politicians in the party's parliamentary group are still adjusting. The general mood within the party is still a mixture of praise, criticism, resignation and enthusiasm.

Vogel remains through it all a rock of stability. Is he the SPD's one-man band?

Vogel is aware of the complicated and jumbled-up situation in his party, but he is not too keen to call a spade a spade.

Some of his party colleagues, who wish to remain nameless, criticize his style of leadership or complain about his political vision.

Others are equally vehement in their enthusiasm and support for his style and mannerisms.

It is difficult to get a clear picture of Vogel's popularity within his own party.

Remarks made by two of the party's top-level politicians prove the point. One refers to the "very good mood" within the party, whereas the other states that the SPD's parliamentary group is "about to explode".

The truth of the matter is that there is at present no alternative in the SPD to Hans-Jochen Vogel, whose predecessor as parliamentary party leader was the "old man" of German politics, Herbert Wehner.

This is why criticism is being toned down and praise is being given freely.

When asked to give a rundown of his "acid text", Vogel referred to the fact that during his period as Opposition leader in Berlin's House of Representatives he only had 50 politicians to lead. In the Bundestag there are 201.

It's certainly not easy to carry on where Herbert Wehner left off.

After all, four fifths of the Social Democrats in the Bundestag have never experienced what it is like to be in an Opposition party.

After being ousted from government, there was a great danger that the party would wallow in self-criticism and even start tearing itself apart.

Vogel sees himself as in the main a man of the executive. In the face of the post-election uncertainties, he has focused more attention on getting to grips with the party's organisational structures than many believe necessary.

Against substantial opposition, centred around Hans Apel, he pushed through an organisation model which tailored the party's political leadership to his own person and eight deputies. These eight shadow ministers are responsible for the parliamentary party's political activities.

In addition, there are five parliamentary secretaries. Together with the eight shadow ministers and Vogel himself, they form the parliamentary party executive, the Opposition real decision-making body.

Many party colleagues refer to this mode of organisation as "departmental administration", a play on the Vogel's Berlin days. In Berlin, he was accustomed to having a party apparatus beneath him, rather than having to come to terms with men and women of an equal parliamentary status.

The pressure to conform to his hierarchical set-up seems to be one of the major internal problems in the SPD parliamentary party, although Vogel's intention is not to suppress originality.

Ever since the personnel struggles have become less important, and as Herta Döbler-Gimelin remarks "more time is spent talking about issues rather than personalities", the internal formulation of party opinion moves along new lines.

The right-wing and the left-wing

seem to have become weaker, the "centre" appears to have gained in strength. The influence of Hans Apel, an intellectual spokesman for a centre-right movement, should not be underestimated here.

However, the centrist structure does run the risk of allowing only the eight top politicians to get publicity, whereas the non-prominent members of the party find it more difficult to gain attention.

Many feel that the flexibility shown

by Vogel on this point will decide on Vogel's success in the long run.

"The man is used to monocratic

structures; now, he's surrounded by people who have gathered their own political experience... He should perhaps show greater confidence in their abilities. This will make or break him in the long run."

In Schröder's opinion, the way the party discussed the missile deployment issue was a prime example of this new style. Vogel gives "other opinions a fair chance", "doesn't steamroller his opponents", "handles opposition very well", "shows a clear political intention".

Schröder feels that Vogel should "keep to his present style".

And as if this weren't enough praise, Schröder advises him not to "take the vanities of his subleaders into consideration".

Although prestige plays a part in the different assessments of Vogel by his colleagues in the parliamentary party, the motives are also connected with the differing opinions on issues.

Vogel is probably hoping that the communiqué has this to say:

"With an eye to the fact that the

party member is bothered by the

re-arrangement of Community fund requirements, the results yet to be accomplished (new order and form) are to be ascertained on the basis of increased VAT revenue on which the

Commission is so keen will be the last

of most.

A number of Common Market coun-

tries would have been prepared to in-

ter-

On 17 March the Bundesbank announced that it had reduced the key lending rate by a princely figure of one per cent in an effort to stimulate the economy. The President of Germany's central bank, Karl Otto Pöhl, felt that he had gone to "the limit of that which is acceptable" in making this move.

On the same day, however, the interest rates for mortgages, which had been declining for months, suddenly began to rise once more.

The coincidence of both events made it look as if the basics of economic theory had gone haywire.

Last week, the head of the German Mortgage Association, Hans Günther Schönenmann, referred to a "Frankenstein on the capital market" when speaking of the latest federal loan. At eight-and-a-half per cent it seemed to indicate that the downward trend for interest rates is changing direction.

Talking to mortgage bankers last week, Herr Pöhl admitted that he no longer knows what is happening. As one earwitness quotes, Germany's top monetary official pointed out that there are three possibilities: either the interest rate will rise, or it will fall, or it will stay where it is.

It is very difficult to fathom out the reasons why mortgage societies are not towing the general interest-rate line.

They viewed Pöhl's generous gesture as the delayed confirmation of an interest rate reduction which already existed on the capital market. In their opinion, there is no chance of a further drop in interest rates in the immediate future.

Increases all round

For this reason, they have loaded higher annuities onto their house-builders.

However, those wishing to build and own their own homes are not the only ones hit by the unexpected turnaround on the capital market. Short-term loans will also cost more. The Federal Republic is in the process of being bowled over by a new wave of interest rate increases.

The treasurers in Bonn, consistently forced to borrow on account of the gaps in the budget, were the first to show the way.

In an effort to keep the solvent citizens and enterprises happy and motivated to hand over their money, the government-borrowers have increased their interest rates for savings bonds, Federal treasury bonds and other financial bonds. The lowest rate is now almost six per cent, and other credit lenders will soon be forced to follow suit.

Investors were pleased; economic experts pessimistic. As Pöhl told his banking colleagues, the turnaround in interest rates has got him worried.

He is worried that this new upward trend for interest rates may well dampen the emerging general mood of optimism in the economy.

As Pöhl pointed out: "After all, the drop in interest rates was one of the pillars of the gradually discernible economic upswing."

The head of the Bundesbank could do nothing but stand by and watch as the pillar began to crumble.

In a mood of resignation, Pöhl emphasised: "Once again, it has become clear how closely linked our interest rate is to that of the US dollar."

The borrowing of dollars has just become more expensive, — the most serious result of the unsuccessful economic summit in Williamsburg.

Originally, the heads of government

■ THE ECONOMY

Interest rates over-rated as a recovery killer

had quite the reverse in mind. They were hoping to be able to persuade President Reagan to adopt a course of interest-rate reduction.

Reagan's guests in Williamsburg could have saved themselves the journey. There was no way the President was going to cut down the huge budget deficit of \$200bn.

However, all those at the conference (with the exception of the Americans, of course) realised that if this figure is not reduced there will be no reduction in interest rates.

Washington's "never-never" approach is a signal to the banks and stock exchanges that the government still needs more money — hence, the high interest rates.

The current yield for capital investors in the United States is about 11 per cent. As Pöhl pointed out, many fat-waisted German businessmen find it hard to resist this kind of temptation.

Consumers show themselves to be even more robust with regard to interest rates than the business world.

If they haven't got the necessary ready cash, they are more than willing to allow retailers to finance the purchase of TVs, fridges and new clothes, no matter how high the cost of borrowing.

The big mail-order firms, which make buying on credit easier by allowing the customer to put a cross against the desired mode of payment, have been finding this out for years.

One member of the Neckermann (mail-order form) board of directors, Werner Piotrowski, sees the increase of on-credit buying as a result of "the lower levels of disposable incomes. Consumers don't care about the interest rate year.

Even the German Minister for Economic Affairs, Count Otto Lambsdorff, couldn't offer any pick-me-ups. During the debate in the Bundestag on the government's annual economic report, he expressed his fears that the latest interest-rate development may well endanger growth prospects.

Opposition politicians, Hans-Jochen Vogel and Manfred Lahnstein, all too readily took the opportunity to gloatingly lament that Chancellor Kohl may not create the upswing after all.

Complaints by politicians are superfluous. In reality, the interest rate is only marginally significant for economic development.

Rising interest rates cannot throttle the boom, just as a reduction in interest rates is unable to force an economic upswing.

According to economic theory, cheap borrowing stimulates the economy as it induces consumers to buy on credit, and firms are able to finance new investments more easily. None of this is true in practice.

Factory installations are so under-utilised at the moment that a growing demand could quite easily be catered for existing capacities.

Even if the interest rates were extremely low, businesses have no reason at present to expand.

The renewal of depreciated equipment is planned by industry many years in advance. Interest-rate movements do not exert that great an influence on such plans.

When it comes to plant construction, most firms don't bother to invest if the only way to do so is via favourable financing.

On the other hand, if a firm has a new product, it will invest in market launching come what may.

Burkhard Müller-Küstner from the Reconstruction Loan Corporation in Frankfurt, an institution which finances risk investments, states:

"The effect of the interest rate should not be overrated. Interesting innovations are necessary when the time comes. Action has to be taken fast, even if there are unfavourable interest rates."

Year-on-year reports by the Association of Independent German Business Men (ASU) confirm the relative insignificance of credit costs in the eyes of managers.

On a rating scale of the 12 most serious problems facing German companies, the interest rates, as Association secretary Dieter Tenhoff remarks, "are surprisingly among the last four."

Even in 1981, when interest rates were extremely high, the cost of borrowing only ranked in tenth position.

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Factory installations are so under-utilised at the moment that a growing demand could quite easily be catered for existing capacities.

The level of interest rates has "no effect whatsoever" on the demand for consumer credits.

And one major bankers confirmed that there is "no connection at all" in this respect.

However, none of those questioned want to be quoted. The monetary managers seemed to be scared of waking sleeping dogs.

If their customers suddenly start taking a closer look at the interest rates before buying their cars, video recorders or jewellery, the banks might lose out on profitable business.

Experts who show out what makes Mr Average tick feel, however, that such worries are exaggerated.

As Carmen Laksaschus, Frankfurt-based organisational search into marketing and sales, underlines, the man on the street is going to allow his willingness to be affected by interest rates.

Two other factors are more important for this decision: unemployment and inflation.

As the inflation rate has been comforting three per cent, "there is a heavy sign of relief."

As Laksaschus points out, "people don't understand the logic of interest rates."

There are only a few cases of "cheap" money going to buy more. Even motives are very complex.

The furniture industry, for example, is still faced by the same

problems we were on the last two occasions.

It is the kind of upswing which is to solve our problems, at least in the immediate future?

The answer is a straightforward no. Many economic indicators released at the start of the year show a marked preference for precious woods, citrus fruits and coffee, which we can export a greater number of goods to this continent.

As it is, these things have meant very little to us up to now. We are only then interested in these products if we can buy them at ridiculously low prices (in terms of the efforts made to produce them). This applies to many products from Third World countries.

Or let's be honest, which of us would be willing to work an extra half-hour to be able to buy a glass of orange juice?

And yet this is exactly what is necessary if the efforts of a German industrial worker are to be rewarded in the same way as those of a Moroccan agricultural worker.

OK, no-one is going to criticise the German worker for earning as much as he can during his 40 or 35-hour week, trying to get as much holiday time as possible, or making sure that there is a fair system of social welfare benefits and good pension schemes.

But the German worker need not be surprised if Indian and Brazilian farmers will never be in a position to buy the products the German worker produces, even though the "need" is there.

The link between easier credit and the stimulation of the economy is particularly obvious in the construction industry.

Ever since the mortgage rates have been brought down, there has been between 50 and 80 per cent more building orders each month.

The same goes for the Hamburg-based mail-order firm Ottoversund: "There is no correlation whatsoever between interest rate levels and borrowing for five-year mortgages."

In May 1981 the effective interest rate for five-year mortgages was 12 per cent; by March this year it had dropped to about 10 per cent.

This sector, therefore, which suffered the only requirement is that one of us is willing to orientate his needs according to the needs of others. This must have the goods and services required by the other persons.

Someone wishing to buy a house on the city outskirts, between 80 and 90 per cent of the money needed is between 50 and 80 per cent of the price of oil, the high interest rates, barriers to trade, just to mention a few.

It is only on the morning till late at night, and not our prosperity.

In May 1981 the effective interest rate for five-year mortgages was 12 per cent; by March this year it had dropped to about 10 per cent.

Even the now rising interest rates are having an effect on the market. In the residential building sector, the assertion can be most clearly illustrated by the relationship between highly developed industrialised countries and those which are less developed.

Without such motivation, the economic upswing and the fight against unemployment are doomed by almost insurmountable obstacles.

These obstacles must be removed if society is to be changed and such objectives achieved.

Dr Meinhard Meigel (Rhönischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 17 June 1983)

FINANCE

Treachery lurks behind a gay springtime mood

They are not willing to provide particularly innovative and creative services — even if there is a demand for them — in exchange for freshly-painted windows, a weeded rose-bed or another tie.

They prefer to do without another tie and leave the windows unpainted (or paint them themselves).

And this is our dilemma! When it comes to economic upswing and full employment, it is not the need of those really "in need" which counts, whether nationally (this is a cardinal error of the union way of thinking) or internationally (an error of the trade policies practised during the past two decades).

More decisive is the need of those social strata and nations for which others are willing to make great efforts to buy.

Even if it sounds paradoxical to many: the needs of the well-to-do provide the primary impulse for economic growth and full employment, not those of society's poor.

The so-called "locomotive" theory, which states that the most powerful industrialised countries should get their economies moving to drag the others out of international economic recession, reflects part of this realisation.

However, it neglects a second aspect of the realisation, namely that the laws which apply internationally also apply to the domestic markets.

The supporting thrust of the economically powerful groups are needed if the economy is to be stimulated.

This does not mean the rich have to be made richer.

It does however imply that a new balance is needed. In an effort to establish such a balance, the economically more powerful must reach a compromise with those who are no so well-off.

This is particularly true at an international level.

So long as products from developing countries are not allowed to "cost anything" here, such countries will never be able to become true customers of industrialised countries.

This also applies to the economic and social relations within highly industrialised countries. Economic upswing cannot last unless the more powerful economic groups are motivated to make it last.

The winner is the one who offers goods of equal value at a lower price.

The trading firms have to cut back their costs and economise, be more creative with regard to storing and distributing methods, organisation, range and service.

As many small retail stores in certain branches have shown, what is needed is inventiveness. Size is not decisive. In fact, the larger firms are sometimes less flexible.

In the case of the department store companies, necessity has become the mother of invention now that the fat years where no brainwork was needed are gone.

In the food retail trade, Aldi has taken on the role of taskmaster and many chain stores are responding.

Butchers and bakers make it clear that they are not going to take things lying down.

This year could be a year of change in the retail trade.

Telling lack of clang at the retail till

Economic trend reports and restrained economic forecasts made by the major trading companies recently would indicate that 1983 looks like outdoing 1982 as the most difficult post-war year ever for retail trading.

The turnover, profit margin and economic performance figures speak for themselves.

Above all, the department stores and the mail-order companies have not felt the effects of the recovery of consumer demand.

Mail-order companies, some of which have not exactly got a reputation for being cheap (Otto, Quelle), are suffering from something which used to be to their advantage.

Their price is valid for the whole season. This means that the mail-order firms cannot rest so fast to price changes. The specialist retail trader can change the price tags over night or put "cut-price" swindles in the window as soon as the sun comes out.

The traditional department stores are more flexible in this respect. They have always placed an emphasis on a "wider range" and sought a more qualified demand than the self-service department stores and consumer markets.

The increased awareness of consumers of price favours, of course, the cheaper of two offers, although cheap ought not be confused with poor quality.

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PERSPECTIVE

Which way now? The Social Democrats go through the shake-out process

Time on the Opposition benches is meant to be a time of regeneration. The Social Democrats, voted out by the electorate, are not resolving their differences as many expected that they would. Main issues in dispute are the West and the 1979 Nato decision to station missiles in Europe and negotiate in the hope that deployment would not be necessary. The left of the party now claim that in these areas, they are in a large majority. Certainly, there has been one strong reaction to the course the SPD is taking. It came in the form of a letter from 10 Social Democratic academics including Professors Kurt Sontheimer, Thomas Nipperdey, Karl Kaiser, Hartmut Jäckel and Gesine Schwan. The accused the party of encouraging left wingers who wanted to tread the middle path equidistant between Washington and Moscow. In this article, Lothar M. Marschall outlines for *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt* the conflicting currents tugging at the SPD.

The Christian Democrats took years to come to terms with losing power in Bonn in 1969.

The Social Democrats are having similar problems adapting, but this time the symptoms are different.

There is no question of a change of leadership, since both Helmut Schmidt and Herbert Wehner have retired to the ranks, and unlike the Christian Democrats in 1969, the SPD need not feel hit by the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

A number of Social Democrats mercifully undermined Helmut Schmidt's position while he was Chancellor, fondly imagining that the SPD would gain fresh strength once it was no longer duty-bound to back an SPD Chancellor.

The assumption that a spell in Opposition would be like sabbatical leave, enabling the party to develop itself to the full, has since proved wishful thinking.

The main problem the SPD faces is that it is bedevilled by so many unsolved problems. Its most serious drawback at present is unquestionably the dispute over Germany's ties with the West and the dual-track Nato missiles-and-talks resolution.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Social Democrats' national executive committee has devoted itself almost entirely to this issue since the general election in March.

The debate on security policy held behind closed doors by the parliamentary party neither resolved differences of opinion within the SPD nor succeeded in papering over the extent of the differences.

The Social Democrats have changed a lot since the Nato resolution was passed, largely at Helmut Schmidt's behest, in December 1979.

The aim of the debate may not have been to hide the differences. Its avowed purpose was to arrive at a practicable choice of words until such time as the decision was reached in Geneva and to prevent the SPD's image on the issue from fraying any further.

There was an urgent need to call the party to order. The rank and file were clamouring more and more insistently for an immediate climb-down on Nato missile commitments.

The first move in this direction was made by the mid-Rhine region, the Saar, and just before the debate was held the Bremen region voted in favour of a categorical "no" to the stationing of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Germany.

Burgomaster Hans Koschnick of Bremen chose to illustrate his case with an argument that could hardly be outdone in intellectual simplicity.

He said he was on the side of the millions who wanted peace and not on that of the handful who felt a nuclear war could be won.

It is hard to believe that in 1979, the year the Nato resolution was reached, Herr Koschnick was deputy leader of the SPD and his Chancellor's faithful liege.

The party leaders felt obliged to intervene by the illogical position of those who rejected a negotiated settlement even before there was any sign of one appearing.

After all, Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel argued from time to time, the possibility of some sensible arrangement being negotiated in Geneva could not be ruled out.

A paper drawn up by the deputy leader of the parliamentary party, Horst Ehmke, and the foreign, party, security policy study group accordingly sought to keep the door open, at least optically.

Representatives of the SPD's left wing promptly sought to capitalise on this. In the Social Democratic weekly, *Vorwärts*, Egon Bahr forecast that if the SPD were to have to decide that weekend on the missiles there would be no unanimous vote against them, from Helmut Schmidt to Oskar Lafontaine and from Hans Apel to Erhard Eppler.

Herr Schmidt was not prepared to accept this argument. Both on the national executive and in the parliamentary party he energetically objected to being claimed by the opponents of the dual-track decision.

He still felt the 1979 decision was right. But he is probably in a minority. Hans-Jochen Vogel said he felt Herr Bahr's estimate that 90 per cent of SPD members were currently opposed to the missiles was not unrealistic.

Willy Brandt said that if he had known then what he knew today he

Farm subsidies

Continued from page 5

ture ought to be left in principle to the tender mercies of the free market.

Large-scale farmers can fend for themselves, whereas farmers who are unable to make ends meet but are deemed worthy of assistance for social or environmental reasons (mountain farmers, for instance) should be paid a straight subsidy to enable them to earn a reasonable income.

It would be up to politics to decide on long-term structural improvements. Europe's foremost aim must be to become self-supporting in all major farm products.

That would not only enable a suitable number of farmers to make ends meet. It is absolutely essential for a continent

3 July 1983
1890 - 3 July 1983

SPACE RESEARCH

German students' hopes in a hurtling drum

would not have agreed to the decision at the time.

It would be underestimating the tent of the tug-of-war within to limit it to the missiles issue in the broadest sense of the term.

A week before the party met for its debate a memorandum was drafted by 10 Social Democ-

rats, including such names as those of Professors Thomas Nipperdey, Hartmut Jäckel and Schwinn.

The memorandum did not say much about trends within the party similar to that of Phillipic by Richard Lewellen. Criticism was levelled at the party's lack of a clear viewp-

osition to the Greens. It was dropping out of industrial so-

cialism. The Challenger's seven pay-

loads were 150-litre drum-shaped con-

tinents inside which five space exper-

iments were devised — and years were

in preparation — by five West

German students aged between 16 and

20.

This had encouraged leftists

who were keen to get the SPD

line of equidistance between

Washington, the mission would

not guarantee that the mission would

be successful.

The gull-and-wormwood

Munich company, which has a

line of 80, was the first private firm

to the United States to book pay-

loads on the space shuttle.

The dons had adopted the

Democrats' line of argument,

ice said.

But this carried little

weight, the German scientific research

and technical

Special programme are Nasa, the

same time as the memorandum

was issued.

There must be no gainin

gains, Herr Rau said, that do

in any way prepared to join

the Western alliance.

Without its ties with the

Federal Republic of Germany

not be able to survive.

Early in 1971 Heribert Wehner

"If the SPD allows itself to

be manoeuvred into Opposition it will

split. It will then be in the same

as the Labour Party in Britain."

Viewed with hindsight this

would appear to be exaggerated

it is clear that by switching over

the SPD has by no means

its contradictions.

Lothar M. Marschall

(*Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*)

that has been hit by two serious

this century.

Over and above this objective

ever, European agriculture should

to hold its own in free competi-

world markets.

Those who have a reasonable

peasant agricultural policy in mind

not just the egoistic well-being of

farmers and farming officials

bound to agree with the American

mandate in principle if not to

the extent.

Common Market taxpayers

hope that pressure from the

United States will at long last bring Eu-

ropeans to their senses.

Hans-Jochen Vogel

(*Süddeutsche Zeitung*)

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this century.

Instead of rewarding farmers, mainly

large-scale farmers, for output, agricul-

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More than 30 per cent of the 2,667 varieties of fern and flowers native to Germany are extinct or in serious danger of extinction.

This is one of the findings of a report which over 50 scientists have spent three and a half years drafting. It has just been submitted to Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

The project group was set up in autumn 1979 by the then Interior and Agriculture Ministers, Gerhart Baum and Josef Ertl.

It was a mixed group of politicians and scientists headed by Bonn biology professor Hartmut Bick.

One of the banal yet essential points on which an effective and economic environmental policy depends is that everything is interconnected.

Another is that linear thinking, the projection of short-term trends into the future, is inappropriate to an understanding of reality.

So the authors of the report have adopted a different approach and advocate planning on the basis of a cyclical outlook.

The report begins with a catalogue of damage the environment has already undergone. Over 30 per cent of the 2,667 varieties of ferns and flowers native to the Federal Republic are either extinct or likely to become extinct.

When one kind of plant goes, the report continues, 10 to 20 species of fauna die too, so interdependent are they ecologically.

Thus 55 per cent of mammals, 44 per cent of birds and 67 per cent of reptiles in the country are classified either as extinct or in danger of extinction.

Only a fraction of the 29,000 or so kinds of insect in Germany have been closely examined in respect of their survival prospects.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Doomsday report's long list of fated plants

But of these 3,715 species a third are said to be in danger of extinction.

If an ecological action programme is to make any sense, the report says, immediate action must be taken to protect species and their biotopes, or natural habitats.

Only if the demands listed are implemented might most of Germany's surviving flora and fauna be expected to survive. But for many endangered species help, if it comes, will come too late.

The scientists call for classification, evaluation and preservation of biotopes with a rich variety of species in all parts of the country.

These "biological islands" must be surveyed for size, location, ecological surroundings and possibilities of interlinking.

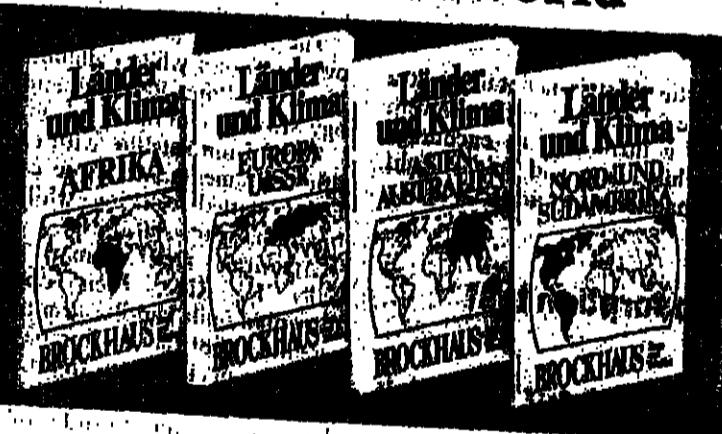
"What is needed," the report states, "is a network dense enough to ensure the exchange of genetic potential and the survival of migratory species."

The biotope protection programme must also list minimum sizes and types of biotope and ensure that they are not, as far as possible, put to other uses.

The authors are particularly insistent on the need to protect the mud-flats along the North Sea coast. Dikes and embankments, they say, must only be built on condition that the mud-flats are not reduced in surface area.

The Bonn government must no longer provide funds from the estimates

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

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earmarked for agricultural structure improvements, and coastal protection.

Otherwise the Federal government would be shouldering partial responsibility for the factual destruction of the mud-flats.

A realistic ceiling must also be set for the amount of recreational use to which the mud-flats should be put. Similar limits ought, it is argued, to be set for the Alps.

Nature conservation areas and national parks must not be changed so much by extraneous influences that their target, to conserve nature, is no longer possible.

The report thus calls for buffer zones to be set up to extend sufficient protection until such time as uses are laid down once and for all.

Just as listed areas and national parks must not be put to uses that jeopardise the features that are to be protected, so that afford protection must be encouraged.

Agricultural chemicals would naturally be banned, whereas hunting and fishing would be permitted, but only if there was no other way of regulating the animal population.

Tourism should as a rule be forbidden, visitors being restricted so as to ensure they do no damage.

Ecologists stress the importance of safeguards for buffer zones to ensure that they are not the source of harmful influences.

The measures they have in mind would be aimed at ruling out pollution such as industrial fallout, traffic, lowering of the ground water level, fertilisers and pesticides.

Yet nature conservation alone is not enough to save nature in all its variety. Fifty-four per cent of the surface area of the Federal Republic of Germany is farmed.

Serious ecological mistakes are made in the agricultural sector. The laws of nature are criminally disregarded. Conventional farming, the report says, "has a detrimental influence on the aims of preserving species and the soil."

The experts thus call for a network of hedges, banks and mini-biotopes to be maintained or laid on. They will in part help to ensure agricultural output on a lasting basis.

This is a task that ought normally to be carried out in the course of consolidation and reallocation of arable land, whereas the trend so far has been to destroy structures that are ecologically essential.

The use of pesticides and fertilisers must be prohibited in these mini-biotopes, the experts say. They would soonest see them used only by farmers.

Roadside vegetation, parks and gardens ought not to be treated with pesticides and fertilisers at all. A Plant Protection Act needs passing.

In farming the report would like to see the introduction of new pesticides that spare useful insects and animals. New methods of tillage and harvesting are advocated. So is careful treatment of marginal flora and fauna.

The report proposes a duty on proprietary fertilisers to prevent overfertilisation, or alternatively a fertiliser ceiling, especially for market gardeners and vineyards.

Limits must definitely be imposed on

EXHIBITIONS

Some gaps in an otherwise strong collection of Egyptian history

the use of nitrogen-based fertilisers to protect water resources, in

they might even have to be

The Waste Disposal Act makes legal provision for offenders who use too much.

Less intensive agriculture would at a cost. To some extent it can be argued that landowners are bound to meet the cost in the interest of society.

But the cost, in terms of production, would be negligible. The section concentrates on Egypt during the Pharaonic millennia.

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missioned task put before them. And it was normal that nature of these tasks was determined in most cases by religious systems. The visitor to such an exhibition, therefore, should really be familiar with this fact in order to fully comprehend the work of art before him.

Another essential prerequisite for understanding the exhibits is knowledge of the historical context surrounding this advanced civilisation.

The Sahara exhibition in Cologne in 1978, for example, suggested that the area around the Nile might have been gradually colonised by peoples from the Sahara region. The emphasis in Heidelberg is on Egyptian art, even though it is treated separately in the exhibition's general context. Explanations in one exhibition catalogue (Bild der Ewigkeit, DM 18) are limited to analyses of individual items.

More environmental protection is needed to be used more flexibly than environmental protection effective.

More careful consideration is given to the efficacy of certain measures before they are put to full use.

The report says the state has a part to play. It and local authorities, major customers and an important part of the market.

It is up to them to foster environmentally sound, environmental products. The experts envisage the establishment of an environmental plan model boat dating from between BC 3,500 and BC

Environmental tests of African artistic treasures, there are in mandatory before the go-ahead. For the manufacture of many items leave the beholder and production facilities, such as because of the huge time

cuts and generating equipment.

The report deals at length with the uses and consumption of energy. It says, must change its inspection procedures for permitting: a God, a king, a priest, a new energy-saving techniques.

Industrial development projects, impressions are often over-enthusiastic mainly "in smaller scale". A small king's head made of wood, for example, 12.8 cm high, and a 1.400 BC, is evidence of the magnificent skills of the master

Three sectors are given as phases: biotechnology to produce knowledge, hence sorrow, uses and consumption of energy; development of energy sources; development of commodity supplies.

Another example: "Head of a Dice-thrower", 16.5 cm high and dating from about 1700 BC, a facial expression

The economics of water supply amaze and fright, rigidly distribution are said to be in total revision. Sewage and other non-expert visitors many of the port system.

Marginal areas where water is head of the dice-thrower, for unspoilt by man must be kept the

Conventional waste disposal in Heidelberg which proves that each

enclosed, especially the failure to encourage full use of recycling

The almost year-old sculpture is reminiscent of the ways of European Roman-

such quantities. Research should be voted to materials that are as

any part of the content of any par-

ment, hazard and their

possible to talk of a "development"



Limestone group of figures, 44 cm high, from Egypt about 2,300 BC. (Photo: Catalogue)

Demonstration of increase in African self-awareness

Hildesheim is continuing its exotic archaeological series by presenting "Artistic Treasures from Old Nigeria" this year. Two years ago it held a Chinese exhibition.

Hildesheim was a powerful diocese in the Middle Ages, and its magnificent exhibitions have enabled it to regain some of the aura it once had.

During the Second World War a great deal of the old part of the town was destroyed.

The Nigeria exhibition is the first time that the early artistic secrets from the area along the Niger, the "silver river", have been shown in this part of the world.

It has already been presented in New York, Oslo, London and Stockholm.

An "Art along the Niger" exhibition shown in 1971 only dealt with a part of the region based on chronicles, travel reports and other finds that non-Hawaiian groups from the Mediterranean area, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt and Arabia, which travelled to this area on caravan routes, spread their techniques and artistic ideas to the

region.

The exhibition is split up into six sections, ranging from the pre-Christian Nok terracotta, the products found in Igbo-Ukwu, Ife, Owo and Benin, to the Tsoddo bronzes.

It is difficult for Europeans to recognise the differences in style, even though they may see the differences in techniques used.

The relief woods from the famous punitive expedition by British soldiers to the Kingdom of Benin in 1897 are also on display.

As opposed to European art, which reflects the social changes undergone in each epoch, West African art objects are of a more static culture. They are ritualised expressions,

■ MEDICINE

Causes of schizophrenia still manage to defy efforts of researchers

About a third of patients in German psychiatric wards are schizophrenic.

The illness is not widespread, but chronic sufferers often have relapses.

Despite research views still differ on whether the causes are somatic, organic, biochemical or psychogenic.

These were some of the features which emerged at a neurologist symposium in Munich organised by Munich psychiatrist Hans Hippel.

Schizophrenia is not widespread. About one per cent of the population suffer from it at some stage.

But chronic and schizophrenics often have relapses, which is why they account for roughly one in three people in psychiatric wards.

Despite medical research we are still very much in the dark about the causes.

Treatment varies in accordance with opinion, but as it seems to be generally agreed that environmental factors affect the course of the illness. The emphasis is by no means solely on drug treatment.

Great importance is also attached to social therapy and rehabilitation. In this connection Joachim-Ernst Meyer, formerly of Munich and now head of the psychiatric ward at Göttingen University Hospital, noted the advantages of the latest sedatives.

They were, he said, not as strong as classical drugs used to sedate nerve patients. They made it possible to carry out simple rehabilitation activities at hospital. Patients were no longer flat out in bed.

Various forms of long-term use of drugs made drug therapy safer and smoother. Drug treatment was most successful with patients suffering from paranoid hallucinatory schizophrenia.

This is a form of split personality in which the patient suffers from insane ideas and hallucinations, especially acoustic ones.

Treatment was most effective with patients who had only recently begun to suffer from acute attacks of this kind of schizophrenia.

If drug therapy was kept up the patient could be almost completely sure of not having a relapse.

A series of tests were made in Göttingen. Neither the doctor nor the patient knew whether an effective drug or a placebo was given.



Schizophrenia symposium

Photo: Deutscher Presse-Agentur

Political scientist Nikolaus Lobkowicz, who had already dealt with how left-wing generally-held views on the subject were, brought these fears to the surface.

Munich literary critic and scholar Walter Müller-Seldi, whose paper was on Psychiatry in Narrative Writing, dealt mainly with Alfred Döblin, Georg Büchner, Gottfried Benn and Arthur Schnitzler.

Criminal lawyer Horst Schüller-Sprinorum dealt with Marriage? Affairs? Or what? (On the Relationship between the Law and Forensic Psychiatry).

He was unhappy about the mésalliance between psychiatric experts and the courts, who were often hand in glove.

His approach might allow the lawyer who had to rely on an expert opinion to do more justice to his own job of administering justice, whereas the psychiatric expert, whose medical judgements were often controversial, would be relegated more to his role as a doctor and therapist.

The extent to which the diagnosis at the time of the offence was felt to be less important than the prognosis, or forecast of likely later progress, both expert and judge might, Schüller-Sprinorum argued, be better able to pass judgment in terms of the individual rather than the case.

The trouble the courts went to over expert reports ought to be concentrated on the offender's future prospects. They were what really mattered.

He did not feel his proposals were at all utopian even though they might seem to be aimed at the "therapy not punishment" approach to the drug problem.

The second part of the symposium enabled the experts who took part to deal more loosely with scientific tenets in psychiatry and allied subjects.

Media expert Wolfgang Langenbacher asked whether psychiatry had a bad Press. He was felt by his audience to take a somewhat one-sided view.

He readily admitted that in parallel, between man and animals anyone could make any interpretation he saw fit, but felt that psychiatrists could no longer afford to disregard the findings of behavioural research.

Psychiatrists themselves, unloved and misunderstood, felt for the most part they were subjected to at times inordinately one-sided, ideologically-motivated criticism by the media.

Nigerian art

Continued from page 11

Figures date from between 500 and 200 AD. The metal products from Ibo-Ukwu (9th to 11th century) are the result of a thousand years experience with one and the same material.

The gleaming commemorative heads from Benin, a continuation of the portrait-like terracotta and brass heads from Ife; the pair of leopards, and the busts of the kings, laden with pearls and amulets, all continue the mystery surrounding Africa.

This mystery is as fascinating today as it was to Greek and Roman historians and Arabian cosmographers.

Ingeborg Meyer-Sickendiek
(Allgemeine Zeitung Münz, 11 June 1983)

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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland)

BEHAVIOUR

Case for (and against) the day nursery

rect answer, but he was of the opinion that integration, i.e. of all efforts to learn the workings of the mind, if we were to gain a man. On the basis of a taxonomy of the soul, geared to the situation a bridge might be psycho- and neuro-discursive.

He favoured a dependent, physicalistic view and a direction of neurobiological ecological integration.

He used the abbreviation

to outline his theory. It consists of initial letters, in German, of a chronometer, reception, evaluation, action, pleasure and activation.

It could well be, Poppo

that his approach remained

static.

It would be a pity because it is

a groundwork that could be

psychology and psychiatry.

Wilhelm Giesecke for the dying-down of day

euphoria of recent years.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Day-nurseries are understood in this text to be educational institutions for babies and infants up to the age of 3.

Apparently, the results of social education in well-run nursery schools, cater for children after the day-care period up until they go to school, do not automatically apply to day-nurseries.

It is particularly during the first years of the child's life, it is essential that the child has one and the same reference person for its emotional and psychological development is not to suffer.

According to Dieter Scholz, the daily separation of family and child during the child's first few years can lead to a lack of bonding experience and so-called confidence shocks. This can result in a series of adaptational and in some cases long-term disturbances.

Some studies have revealed a negative emotional development as well as problems with regard to the ability to form relationships, the child's playing behaviour and the development of its mind.

Most expressed fears of environmental destruction, of war or of getting bad marks at school.

This, said the minister, was itself a political statement.

The paintings were by 38,000 children aged between eight and 14. Few featured the happy and pretty world one would expect to find in a child's mind.

What families haven't gone through this before?

Another painting shows three children and their parents sat at a dining table. Balloon captions can be seen coming out of Mum and Dad's mouths, full of complaints and warnings.

Industrial landscapes, dying forests, people wearing gas masks, rubbish tips, high-rise buildings, dead drug addicts, horror visions of mushroom clouds and war. Is this really the world of children today? Or has the jury deliberately made a limited selection?

It was easy enough to believe what a 15 year-old Vietnamese boy painted. A war scene, with aircraft, tanks, burning houses, an abandoned child's playground and a small lake with a few white ducks swimming on it.

Many of the prizewinners are children of Germany's foreign workers.

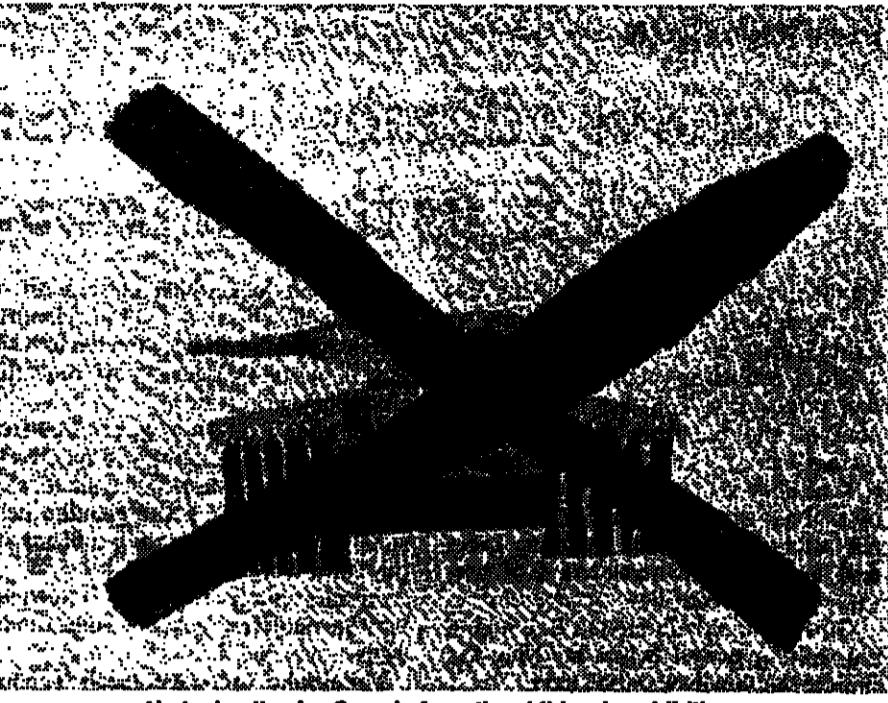
A class of Turkish children from Augsburg, produced a combined painting, which shows more joy of life than most of the paintings by the German children.

It shows a colourful group of children skipping and playing ball game in front of a high grey wall and beneath grey skies. They stuck the children in the painting together using scraps of cloth.

The grey wall was printed on to the paper using potatoes. They used a sponge for the sky and a tea-strainer and tooth-brush for the sand at the front of the painting.

A nine year-old Greek girl from a Greek school in Nuremberg painted a series of impressions: how her mother warns her about the danger of traffic on German roads, an injured child sat in a room and finally a dream: sand, sun water. Underneath the painting in large

Continued on page 14



No thanks, thanks. Sample from the children's exhibition.

(Photo: Deutscher Kinderschutzbund, Hanover)

Oh! What a horrible world: child paintings shatter an illusion

In an exhibition of children's paintings in Bonn gave cause for social concern, said the Bonn Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health, Heiner Geissler.

He said the exhibition revealed that children do not see their environment as ideal. It was hostile and needed change.

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Even the fear in a child's imagination is still real. Imagined stress at school becomes more vivid.

Parents who visit the exhibition will have to do some serious thinking when faced with such paintings, many of which bear witness to the increasing pressure on children to do well and get good marks at school at all costs.

One painting, for example, shows a child lying forward across its school

Continued on page 15

EDUCATION

Curious ethnological point: the students roll in as the professors roll out

The number of students studying ethnology at German universities is rising fast.

There are many reasons for this sudden popularity. Together with the appeal of the unknown (culture, social system etc.), many students are hoping to find answers to some of life's fundamental questions: are wars and violence part of human nature? Do other races and nations have better ways of preventing social conflict?

Others are only interested in bridging the waiting period before studying the subject they really want to study.

A case in question is 21-year-old Ruth, who instead of waiting for five years to study psychology decided to take up ethnology at Berlin's Free University.

Interest in other cultural groups has also grown because many young Germans are unhappy with their own cultural heritage and background.

During recent years, an unusually large number of school-leavers have opted to study ethnology, a subject which only had about 10 or 20 students just a few years ago.

Today, ethnology departments are finding it difficult to cope with the rush and the 2,000 students in Berlin have brought the department there to the verge of collapse.

Many would-be ethnologists are hop-

ing to find jobs which correspond to their qualifications. A field of scientific research which was once limited to a select minority therefore, now runs the risk of being overrun.

Professor Rolf Herzog, chairman of the German Ethnological Society, feels that the interest is based on a mixture of Rousseau, Karl May and genuine personal commitment for the problems of the Third World.

Another motivating force is seen to be the subject's general educational value.

Philosophy professor Jacob Taubes from Berlin sees the desire of young people to get to know the life-styles, rites and myths of foreign peoples as the main factor. An expression of the feeling "things can't go on the way they are". This assumption was confirmed by a survey carried out in a Berlin ethnology department. Students were asked to describe their motives for seeking different ways of life, religions and moral concepts, as well as arguments against German society.

Many stated that they wanted to "get away from normality". They object to existing social constraints and the general security-mindedness.

This is one of the reasons why they don't mind studying a subject which offers them little or no job prospects when they finish their studies.

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